

## Questions & Answers from the 2022 SMRP Grant Webinar

Name & Affiliation	Question	Response
Claire Galkowski, SSRC	Did you say 10 gallon minimum for organics carts? (that's a lot)	Yes, that's correct. Details may be found here: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/doc/details-wheeled-organics-carts/download">https://www.mass.gov/doc/details-wheeled-organics-carts/download</a>
Kristina Greene, Westford Recycling Commission	If a muni applies for Recycling carts and RDP, is there a limit to the award?	There is a \$210,000 limit for recycling carts, but RDP is dependent on how many points are received. You can apply for both.
Leslie Caisse - Bolton DPW	Can we use RDP funds to purchase a container for mattresses?	Yes. RDP funds can be used for container purchase/ rental for mattresses. You can also use RDP funds to pay for your mattress recycling program, transportation, and processing.
Margaret Sobkowicz Kline	For PAYT grants, why is there an incentive program to go from stickers to bags?	Stickers are not as effective as PAYT bags. Bags are a particular size, it's easier to know how many gallons of trash they can hold. Stickers could fall off and someone could cheat with it.
Christine Bellino	Will I be able to have a bulk waste event when I take mattresses will I be able to do that	Yes, you can definitely do that. There are mattress vendors on FAC90 which you could ask about picking up or transport to those facilities. In terms of the grant, we will award a container for a one-day event or events a few times a year. You can also use RDP funds for your one-day collection event or rent a container.
Jamie Magaldi	Will the grant for mattress containers fund RENTALS of the container through our existing trash collection contractor (not purchases)	No, it won't fund a rental. Please check out our Mattress recycling webpage at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mattress-recycling">https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mattress-recycling</a> which includes a link to FAC90, the state contract for mattress recycling services, which includes rental of collection containers.
Jan Parke Leicester Recycle Center	Can we find a regional or neighbor comm to which we might refer our patrons for mattresses?	Yes, regional mattress collection programs are popular. Your MAC Irene Congdon may be able to help you with a regional partnership to collect mattresses
Marlene Faria Connelly, Ipswich	Is it OK for munis with low diversity population numbers to do multilingual guides for languages that have been identified by town census?	YES! We encourage you to reach out in as many languages as you need. And make the the flyers in larger print for those with limited vision if possible too!
Christine Bellino	will this meeting be available online?	Yes, it is being recorded and it will be located on the MassDEP website in the coming days.

Roby Whitehouse	Will the documentation for mattress recycling requirement include exemptions? Some of the recycle companies will not accept soiled, wet, or buggy mattresses.	Yes, that is going to be part of your town waste ban compliance plan. If you have a transfer station or recycling center, or wherever you are collecting them, we understand that not all mattresses will be of recyclable quality. They are not all going to be clean and dry. You should have a plan in your facility about the good mattresses that are going for recycling versus the bad ones that you are sending for disposal. A few sentences about what the different steps are. That is, you look at the mattresses and screen them as they come in for good ones and bad ones to be placed in separate containers and have them tracked. So that when mattresses go to disposal at the landfill or incinerator, there is no question about why you are sending them for disposal as they are not acceptable.
Liz Antanavica, Town of Bedford DPW	If the municipal website uses Google Translate, would that satisfy the requirement for translated recycling information?	No due to translation issues. The RecycleSmartMA Guide is available in 8 languages, check it out: <a href="https://recyclesmartma.org/smart-recycling-guide/">https://recyclesmartma.org/smart-recycling-guide/</a>
Kristina Greene, Westford Recycling Commission	Does the school need to send physical flyers home or just have them available? Grant asks "When they were sent?" What does that mean?	Information can be sent home in either print or digital format.
Claire Galkowski, SSRC	What are the criteria for providing reduced cost/subsidized services under the DEI? Who needs to be eligible?	This criteria will vary among municipalities. Whatever criteria you use for your municipality will be allowed.
Christina Collins	If we have a link for <a href="https://www.recyclesmartma.org">https://www.recyclesmartma.org</a> on our website will that be included as multilingual and will we be eligible for points?	No, we want to see a direct link on the municipal website to guide(s) in language(s) that are spoken in your community. Multilingual outreach should be as easy to access as English-language outreach.
Sharon Kishida	Can a drop-off community who accepts food waste (not meat and fish) be considered the same as a town wide curbside collection program	No. The Organics criterion related to drop off requires distribution of compost bins and is a 2-point option. We are silent as to whether meat or fish need to be included in materials collected.

	and earn 3 points. (it is parallel access)	
Kristina Greene, Westford Recycling Commission	Compost bin price has increased to \$50.96 in FY22. When will we know the price for FY23? If it increases again, will Towns be able to charge residents more than \$25 and still obtain RDP points?	<p>This year it is set at \$25. We may reevaluate next year.</p> <p>Prices on FAC113 will remain unchanged until March 2023, when we allow vendors to adjust pricing.</p>
Norma Chanis, WWRRC, West Boylston	Reuse Program - can you only get points for one of the options or multiple?	You can only get point(s) for one option under each criterion.
Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, GNBRRMD	In the information shared after/during the December webinar, a reuse guide was included under the Reuse category, but not included in the most recent grant guidance. I had hoped to do a reuse guide. Can you explain why it was removed?	Reuse guides can vary greatly so we decided to only credit for these under the Education and Outreach Criteria.
Colleen Hynes	how can we find out what items are allowed for zero waste days? would it be possible to offer items not on the DEP list?	Page 8 on the RDP Details provides a link to a list of items that qualify for a Zero Waste Day. <a href="https://www.mass.gov/doc/items-commonly-accepted-at-zero-waste-days/download">https://www.mass.gov/doc/items-commonly-accepted-at-zero-waste-days/download</a>
Claire Galkowski, SSRC	On the single use ban, does a muni that adopts a ban on a plastic item but doesn't impose a fee on alternative single use items qualify?	Yes, because only cities are authorized under MA General law to charge a fee. The AG's office won't include a bylaw for a town to charge a fee.
Colleen Hynes	If we are accepting additional items not on the list would any of those qualify towards the zero waste day points	Our list includes 15 categories, we require that items from 8 of the categories be collected at an event. If item not on list, but clearly falls under one of the 8 categories, that will qualify.

Charlotte Milan	If I made a request in a special category, and Will approved it, but now I want to change that request, is Will going to be annoyed at me? I feel like I do this every year, but part of what I'm trying to figure out is, which potential projects are even possible, versus which would be rejected.	<p>We have become inundated with special RDP spending requests. As the requests are typically not straight forward, they take time to review, discuss, and make a determination.</p> <p>We have an extensive list of approved spending and encourage municipalities to refer to the list and find an approved expense that works for them.</p> <p>If a special spending request has been submitted by your municipality, regardless of whether it is implemented, that request qualifies as the one permitted requested.</p>
Jillian Wilson Martin	If we have a chest of unspent RDP funding, do annual spending limits on Library of Things and other annual limits still apply?	Yes
Claire Galkowski, SSRC	On single use bans, if a ban only results in a change in disposable material type, how does that further RDP's waste reduction goal?	The single use plastics ban also addresses items other than bags, such as straws and takeout foodware. We want residents to "Skip the Stuff" and work to incentivize reusable items- reduce takeout waste which has spiked since COVID. <a href="https://upstreamolutions.org/skip-the-stuff">https://upstreamolutions.org/skip-the-stuff</a>
Joanna O'Connell	Is there any points available for composting/waste reduction at the public schools?	No, but there is a school option under textiles.
Marlene Faria Connelly, Ipswich	If the muni doesn't subsidize the cost of the composting program but supplies free bags, carts and countertop containers, does that qualify?	We will consider this on a case-by-case basis

<p>Jan Parke, Leicester Recycle Center</p>	<p>We have chosen not to apply for a mattress grant. We are all volunteers and we feel we cannot handle the program successfully. We do have a facility within our town area that will accept mattresses. Wondering if they might be a neighboring town which has a program which we might refer our patron to. Some place close, not sure if they have to buy sticker for that facility or take mattresses for a price?</p>	<p>This is something you would have to work out with the town. If a town is agreeing to allow neighboring town to use their site, then that's fine. Work with your regional coordinator or MAC.</p> <p>The mattress container application asks:  <i>Is your municipality interested in serving as a regional collection site, allowing other municipalities and/or their residents to tip mattresses or consolidate materials into a trailer?</i>  It may make sense to reach out to adjacent communities to determine their interest in applying for a container and a regional collection approach. Your MAC maybe able to help form a partnership.</p> <p>Here is the link to find your Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC):  <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-municipal-assistance-coordinators">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-municipal-assistance-coordinators</a></p>
<p>Norma Chanis, WWRRC, West Boylston</p>	<p>What towns are collecting agricultural film?</p>	<p>There are western and central Massachusetts communities that collect this material. Our yearly recycling and solid waste survey requests information on plastic film collection, however we do not make a distinction between types of film collected. Your MAC may be able to share which municipalities in your area are collecting this material.</p> <p>Here is the link to find your Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC):  <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-municipal-assistance-coordinators">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-municipal-assistance-coordinators</a></p>